

Remarks

In the application, claims 58 through 72 are pending. No claims are currently allowed.

The Office Action dated October 4, 2005, has been carefully considered. The Office Action objects to claims 10, 12, 13, 15, 18, and 23 for various grammatical and formal errors. Claims 1, 2 6, 7, 10 through 13, 40, 43, 44, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,384,645 (“Sullivan”). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of Sullivan and U.S. Patent 1,661,532. Claims 4, 5, 22, 23, 25, 26, 41, 42, 49, and 50 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan and U.S. Patent 3,964,728 (“Flider”). Claims 9, 29, and 30 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan and U.S. Patent 6,701,951 (“Drinkwater”). Claim 8 is rejected as obvious in light of Drinkwater and U.S. Patent 5,769,124. Claims 1 and 14 through 17 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,939,871. Claims 19, 20, 47, and 48 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan and U.S. Patent 2,972,357 (“Ford”). Claim 21 is rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Ford, and U.S. Patent 4,479,513. Claims 24, 28, and 51 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Flider, and Ford. Claim 31 is rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Drinkwater, and U.S. Patent 5,220,937 (“Roberts”). Claims 32 and 33 are rejected as obvious in light of Drinkwater and U.S. Patent 5,234,286 (“Wagner”). Claim 34 is rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Drinkwater, and U.S. Patent 4,738,394 (“Ripka”). Claims 35, 52, and 53 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Drinkwater, and Flider. Claims 36, 38, and 39 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Flider, Drinkwater, and Wagner. Claims 37 and 57 are rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Flider, Drinkwater, Wagner, and Ripka. Claim 54 is rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Drinkwater, Flider, and Roberts. Claim 55 is rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Drinkwater, Flider, and Wagner. Claim 56 is rejected as obvious in light of Sullivan, Drinkwater, Flider, and Ripka. Claims 18 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their antecedent claims.

To expedite issuance, applicants are focusing on the otherwise allowable claims 18 and 27. All existing claims are cancelled without prejudice. New claim 58 is an independent version of original claim 18 and includes all of the limitations of claim 18 and of its antecedent claim (that is, of original claim 1). In a similar manner, new claim 71 is an independent version of original claim 27 and includes all of the limitations of claim 27 and of its antecedent claims (that is, of original claims 25 and 26). New dependent claims 59 through 70 are rewritten versions of some of the

In re Application of: Allan McLane et al.
Application No.: 10/605,473

claims that originally depended, directly or indirectly, from original claim 1. New dependent claim 72 is a rewritten version of original claim 28 that depended from original claim 25.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Bretscher, Reg. No. 52,651
Attorney for the Applicants
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
6815 Weaver Road, Suite 300
Rockford, Illinois 61114-8018
(815)963-7661 (telephone)
(815)963-7664 (facsimile)

Date: January 3, 2006